

REMARKS

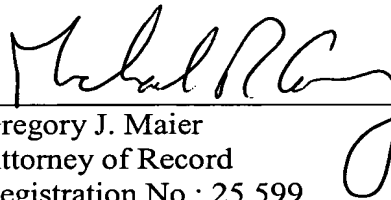
Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, a reference provided in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed November 26, 2001, was indicated as not having been considered because a copy of the reference was not found within the file.

Accordingly, a copy of French Patent No. 2 739 941, dated April 18, 1997, is provided and applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of this reference.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No.: 25,599  
Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
GJM/EHK/ZS:dnf

**Michael R. Casey, Ph.D.**  
**Registration No. 40,294**